

# ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion Newsletter – July

## **Photo of the Month**



SGT Martin and members of 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company on a mission in Samara.

## **Winning the peace**

Soldiers of the 720<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion have spent the month of July working to secure peace and stability in Iraq.

Their missions continue to be conducted primarily in the area known as the “Sunni Triangle.” This part of central Iraq, which includes the cities of Baghdad, Al-Fallujah and Tikrit, is where Saddam Hussein and Baath party loyalists have been most active against U.S. forces. Soldiers of the Gauntlet are now mostly working in the northern portion of this triangle in and around Tikrit.

The 401<sup>st</sup> and 411<sup>th</sup> Military Police companies are conducting missions in Tikrit with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Fourth platoon from the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company is working with 1-66 Armor, 4ID, in Samarra, a city about 20 miles south of Tikrit.

The 64<sup>th</sup> MP Company is working in Ad-Duluiyah, a small town 20 miles south of Samarra. The 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company is still working in Qatar.

Life and work in Iraq is not easy. For every soldier, being away from family and loved ones is the most difficult challenge of all. But there are also all the little daily challenges that make life difficult; summer heat, power outages, slow email and food everyone would rather not eat!

But through all these little challenges, and all the big ones as well, 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion soldiers continue to perform missions that are a vital part of U.S. and coalition forces’ success in Iraq. Our soldiers, family and friends have much to be proud of.

## ***Soldier Profile***

Tricia Smith, 30, is a supply sergeant with the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company. She joined the Army in 1992 because she was ready to leave Florida for the first time.

“I heard you do a lot of traveling in the Army so I said, ‘that’s my ticket out of Palm Beach!’”

As a supply sergeant, she is responsible for keeping track of the company property book, ordering and distributing needed items, and looking after four soldiers who work under her supervision. Though the deployment has been difficult, she said she has no complaints yet about her experience in Iraq.

“It’s OK because I get to go to church every Sunday morning. As long as I get to go to church and see my husband, I’m doing really well.” Her husband is in Tikrit with HHD, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



SGT Smith  
W. Palm Beach, FL

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## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

# From the Commander's Foxhole

It's almost August! I'm excited to see August for a couple of reasons. First, and foremost it's one month closer to going home. Second, it marks mid-summer and hopefully the summer Iraq heat won't plague us much longer.

With regard to us redeploying to come home, I'd ask you all to take a deep breath while our military's top leadership makes adjustments to the rotation policy. Like any plan, the Iraq war plan didn't anticipate the challenges that we face in Iraq today. These challenges have increased the anticipated requirement for post-war Iraq. Please know that our nation's senior military leadership has experienced being away from their families and they will do all they can to complete the mission in Iraq, but with families in mind. We were all very disappointed when the 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company's redeployment was put on hold two weeks ago. The Army is in the midst of working out the MP unit rotation plan. Please know that CSM Generali and I work on this issue everyday. We miss our families also. Your patience is appreciated and admirable.



July brought more changes in personnel. Major Frank Rangel has assumed the duties of the Executive Officer (XO) and Sergeant Major Nate Wilson has taken the reigns as the Operations Sergeant Major (S3). In addition, we welcomed CPT Sellers (S3), CPT Withers (S1) and numerous others into the battalion. We're fortunate to have our new "Soldiers of the Gauntlet."

**One moment please—Lynne, Andy, Ryan, and Tyler – I miss you all very much!**

(Perks of the job – personal notes to the family) ☺

**(Please see page 9 for the remainder of LTC Poirier's article)**

# From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major's foxhole

Soldiers of the Gauntlet, family members and friends, I would like to say we've reached the half way point, but the truth is neither the Battalion Commander nor I have any indication as to when the Battalion will return to Fort Hood. On a positive note, I can say that each and every day we remain deployed in support of this operation we continue to build a solid foundation as an organization that is flowing with esprit de corps to the onlooker, and dealing with the ups and downs every family endures internally.

As we settle in for the highest temperatures of the year, we are keeping a close eye on each other's welfare. Rumors and misconceptions abound about the lack of or shortage of water. I can assure you that each company has a 400-gallon water trailer filled with fresh potable drinking water that is always available. Additionally, each soldier receives between 2 and 3 bottles of bottled water each day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Rear Detachment for their tireless effort in dealing with the day-to-day tasks associated with a lengthy and arduous deployment such as this. As soldiers, it is hard for us to stay focused on the task at hand if things are not going well on the home front. It has been proven during the past four months that if an issue is raised, one of the dedicated and professional NCOs in the Rear-Detachment will run the rabbit in the hole and try to do the right thing by the soldier, his or her family and the Army. I would be remiss not to thank the volunteer spouses of our Family Readiness Group who are available all hours of the day and night ready to lend a hand. Without your support, we would surely have families feeling as though there is nowhere to turn in times of need.



Please continue to write, send packages and emails and pray for the safety of the "Soldiers of the Gauntlet". Once again, thanks for your support to our organization, the nation and the soldier that is enduring this arduous deployment. Your ability to deal with the issues that arise at home and the absence of your loved one is immeasurable.

CSM William A. Generali Gauntlet 7 "Orderly Regulation"

*"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value" -Albert Einstein*

*Fighting for freedom – a soldier's perspective*

by SSG Tony Hockensmith, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion

Once, a long time ago, our forefathers lived in a country where selfish leaders oppressed them. For this reason, they came to America in search of a better life. When they arrived, however, they found they were not free of their oppression. They realized they had only expanded the distance between them and their oppressors.

Therefore, these revolutionaries banded together and fought for the very freedoms that we enjoy today. Since then, Americans have fought many battles and wars to secure and preserve these freedoms. Along the way, we have helped other countries stand up for their freedom.

My earliest memories are of being a helper.

Whether it was helping papa fix the lawnmower, helping grandma make pancakes in the kitchen, or helping dad and Earl fix cars in the garage. Another important childhood memory is my love for U.S. history.

I think it is a blend of these two ingredients which combined to make the recipe of beliefs that led to my becoming a soldier. I want to help Americans to continue to live free, and to help those in foreign lands to enjoy the basic rights we do.

I have seen many things in Iraq. Imprinted on my mind forever are two images. One is of a beautiful, barefoot little girl who appears not to have bathed in weeks. Her hair is braided in two ponytails and she is wearing a tattered dress. Behind her is her house that is merely a mud shack with grass twined together to make a roof. Clashing against this image are those of immaculate palaces across Iraq where Saddam Hussein lived a lavish life while his people lived in oppressed poverty.

I am proud of what I have done here as a soldier for the people of Iraq. More so, I am proud of the soldiers I trained in the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company prior to this war. I ask them to reflect on the essay I had them write about their oath of enlistment and to understand that they are living up to what they wrote.

More than anything I appreciate my family. You have supported me in fulfilling my beliefs and for this you are the most special people in my life and I love you for it. Without you, I would not have been able to continue when my faith in my beliefs was fleeting. I thank the Lord everyday for you and his bountiful blessings. I know that he is on my side.



One of Saddam Hussein's former palaces in Tikrit.



A girl stands beside the road in a village south of Baghdad.

## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

### **410th Military Police Company**

by CPT Yvonne Miller, commander

Greetings from the 410<sup>th</sup> MP Company! July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 was a glorious day for the unit, as 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon returned from Kuwait to join the rest of the unit in Qatar. From Qatar to Kuwait to Iraq, this company has held together and excelled at accomplishing the mission. Although everyone misses our loved ones back home, the unit is staying focused and meeting every challenge.

In June, the soldiers at Camp As Sayliyah had some exciting events to help pass the time. President Bush came to visit along with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The USO also presented a show that included NBA stars, NFL stars, actors, actresses, rock stars, country stars and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

We are anxious to return home and appreciate the continued support of everyone in the states. I am proud of all this unit has accomplished and am amazed at the resilience and versatility the soldiers have demonstrated with all the mission changes this unit has experienced. Their ability to accomplish the mission is a reflection of the support they are receiving from home. Thank you to all our families and friends. BRAVO SPIRIT!



The 410<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in Qatar.

### **411<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company**

by CPT Omar Lomas, commander

Spouses, family members, and loved ones of the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company - I can't even begin to express how honored and proud I am to be the new commander of the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company "Speed and Power!" It truly is a privilege to command and I am humbled by the opportunity that LTC Poirier has given me to command this great unit.

This unit would not be where it is today if it were not for the efforts of the outgoing commander, CPT Gerald G. Mapp. CPT Mapp truly went out of his way and allowed me to ease into command. Our transition was smooth and efficient, thanks to his efforts. I would like to thank CPT Mapp and his wife Sonya for their hard work and dedication to this company. I wish you God Speed and luck at your next duty station.

I would also like to thank the members of the Family Readiness Group (FRG). You are our life line back at Fort Hood and I thank you for keeping the fires burning back there and keeping our soldiers' spouses and family members informed. I will continue to keep you informed through the company and platoon representatives. So contact SFC Wade back at Fort Hood and give her your email address to pass along to your platoon representative so that you get my FRG emails.

The 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company is doing great! First Platoon "Rottweilers" and Fourth Platoon "Peace Makers" completed a very successful bank security mission. They were in charge of the security of the Agricultural and Rafadain Banks in downtown Tikrit and both platoons' soldiers did a super job at it! (see 411<sup>th</sup> on page 9)



CPT Lomas passes the 411<sup>th</sup> colors to 1SG Hodges during the Change of Command ceremony June 30.

# ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

## **401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company**

by CPT Mark Blair, commander

The month of July has been a very busy month for the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company. We continue to work very diligently establishing a viable police force in Tikrit, Iraq. We have been successful thus far and are continuing to make great progress. The soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> are proving to be a great asset to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. We are working with adjacent 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units to very methodically clear Iraqi towns of any persisting elements of lawlessness. Soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> are contributing greatly to a free Iraq no longer under the iron-fisted rule of Saddam Hussein.

With great progress comes additional sacrifice that we have had to endure in the past and are enduring again. SGT Nunnery of 4<sup>th</sup> platoon was injured while conducting a combat patrol in Samarra, Iraq earlier this month. Very thankfully, he was not critically wounded and at no time was his life in any jeopardy. He is a great asset to the 401<sup>st</sup> team and we wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

The Fourth of July was a very over-indulgent day for the soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup>. We deservingly ate more food than most small countries. The soldiers had their pick of hamburgers, steaks, bratwurst, corn on the cob, and lots of other things that were provided to us and prepared and served to us by our mess sergeant, SFC Schoen and his outstanding group of cooks. That, combined with a huge contingent of sodas that we received for the event, made being away from home on our nation's birthday a little more bearable.

Congratulations to all of the new mothers and fathers of the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company with their new additions to the family. We are very proud of you! Mail is flowing much better than it has been in the past. Please keep the letters, packages, pictures, and e-mails flowing in very frequently. (see 401<sup>st</sup> on page 9)



2LT Marks serves steak, hamburgers and hotdogs to her platoon during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ in Samarra.

## **HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion**

by 1LT Christopher Church, commander

Greetings from Tikrit. I want to say my first couple of weeks in command of the Detachment have been a real pleasure. Being able to work with your husbands, wives, sons, and daughters has made my job transition a breeze. On the home front, my wife Samantha is currently finishing school in West Virginia and will return to Killeen around the first of August. She is looking forward to getting involved with the FRG and meeting all the family and friends of the Detachment.

The detachment has been busy supporting the Battalion in countless missions covering over 2,000 miles of Iraqi countryside. During this time your family members are getting experience that will aid them the rest of their careers. Within all of this we have had some fun as well. We've had the chance to preview movies on the big screen, play volleyball and even take a dip in the pool at the 4ID MWR palace. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July the base had a leader prepared BBQ for the soldiers encompassing a variety of food like hotdogs, hamburgers, pork chops and even steak. To finish the day there was a concert given by the 4ID rock band, which was topped off with a fire works show courtesy of two Air Force F-16's.

We have gotten an upgrade in our quality of life from the months prior. We now have air conditioning, consistent showers and even freezers to keep our drinks cold, only if the power would stay on. Coming in August we are getting a big jump in our daily rations with the arrival of Brown and Root, which is a government contracted dining facility. All in all things are looking up for us, but nothing replaces family at home. Without your support each day here would be much harder.



SFC Guthrie and 1LT Church at the HHD 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ.



## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

### **64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company**

by CPT Juan Nava, commander

With the passing of yet another month here in Iraq, the Guardians continue to provide security in our assigned areas for 3/29 FA Battalion in Ad Duluiyah (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoons) and north of Tikrit for the 4<sup>th</sup> BCT, 4ID (1<sup>st</sup> Platoon). I would like for the family members to know that your Guardians are serving proudly and with exceptional courage and professionalism. The trials and tribulations of this dangerous environment have created a very tight bond based upon mutual respect and regard for each other. This great team continues to face the enemy with the confidence and knowledge that they are there for each other every day. Though many of our missions are dangerous, your soldiers are executing all of them extremely well. I ask that you continue your letters, packages and prayers to extend your love and support for them.



PFC Matheson shows off the goodies he received home.

As we continue to make improvements to our living areas, the most notable addition for the soldiers both young and old has been the PlayStation2 that found its way into the company area. Several tournaments later, the soldiers remain friends despite the occasional dispute over how one beat the other. With fans, generators and more air conditioners said to be on the way, the soldiers will greatly appreciate them as the mercury tops well over 115 degrees on a regular basis these days. The jet hanger that houses some of the HQs along with 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> platoons does well to protect against bullets and mortars, but does little to combat the heat and sand that are ever-present in this region. The soldiers attempt to keep cool with cool water from freezers and refrigerators as well as the daily supply of ice from a local vendor. The addition of two microwaves to the company has broadened the meal prospects and I encourage family members to send microwaveables for the soldiers to break up the routine of MREs. Our current location is more austere with one hot meal, either breakfast or dinner, each day and an adequate supply of water for drinking, bathing, etc. Despite all of these hardships, the morale is as high as everyone wonders when we are all getting on the freedom bird.

The Guardians would like to wish PFC Correia a speedy recovery from the injuries he sustained from an RPG during an ambush earlier this month. All signs indicate a complete recovery and we wish him well while he recovers in Landstuhl, Germany. Stay strong, and we'll see you when we get back, whenever that is... GUARDIANS!!

## **From the Chaplain – texts of faith, hope and comfort**

By CH (CPT) Thomas Brooks

Chaplain Brooks is with 1-66 Infantry of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Samarra. He offered the following meditations and corresponding Biblical texts for 'Soldiers of the Gauntlet' families and friends to read while their loved ones are far from home.

The Lord is our Shepherd always leading us in the best way and protecting us.

*Psalm 23*

As a father cares for his children, so God cares for his own; his love is everlasting.

*Psalm 103:8-18*

God always shelters those who put their trust in him.

*Psalm 91:1-2*

The suffering of the present time is not worth comparing with the coming day.

*Romans 8:18*

God is the source of all comfort.

*II Corinthians 1:3-4*



CH (CPT) Thomas Brooks

God directs all things by his infinite wisdom and his ways are beyond our comprehension.

*Romans 11:33-36*

### ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***



## Soldiers' Voices

From 1<sup>st</sup> Squad/2<sup>nd</sup> PLT/ 411<sup>th</sup> MP Co

*To Cynthia Davis, Mrs. Shelby, AnneJ Sparks, Tina Woods, Destyni Bacon, Sigfredo Ramos, Mr & Mrs. Grosshuesch, Mrs. Morera, Mr. & Mrs. Dehmlow and Kris Oestmann*

"Hello from your loved ones in Iraq. Gotta love the picture. We're gonna be the sequel to "Band of Brothers!" We're all doing great."

"I love you Cynthia – I'm ready for some homemade chocolate chip cookies!!"

"Destyni baby, I love you and miss you."

"I love you Tina and I miss you a lot."

"To Junior, always remember you are the love of my life, my strength and inspiration; thanks for being there – "I love you."

"AnneJ, I love and miss you more than anything. I cannot wait to come home Bo-Bo. p.s like the mustache!?"

"Dear family, I miss you all and I will see you all as soon as I can – I am doing great."

"I love you mom and little bro. Take care – I'll see you soon. I love you Ana, my sweet soon to be wife."

"Katrina, I love you – I will see you soon. Brenden, I love you too and can't wait to see you."

"Kris – I love you, miss you and hope to be home soon."



SPC Jeremy LeGrand, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Company

*To his wife Adrianna in Aurora, Illinois*

"Love you baby - I miss you a lot."



### ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

SGT Timothy Johnson and SPC Tina Costa,  
401<sup>st</sup> MP Company

*To SGT Ricot Foster and SPC Darnell Verdin  
who are recovering from their wounds back in  
the United States.*

“Hey Darnell – it’s Costa – hope you are doing well. Love you – see you soon.

SGT Foster, I hope you are doing well. Take care. I can’t wait to see you soon. We miss you.”

“Ricot – miss ya – you’re like a big brother to me. Thanks for always looking out for me. See you when I get back.”

PV2 Jennifer Sperber, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company

*To family and friends*

“Tell everyone I said hi! I miss you and love you so much. I’m thinking about you always. I’ll be home soon. I love you.”



SGT Patrick Benford, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion

*To Elizabeth and Madison*

“First of all, know that I love you and miss you both so very much. I can’t wait until I can see you and hold you again. Know that things are fine over here and I am safer than things may appear. Thank you for your support since I’ve been over here. I love you.”



## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

### **Commander from page 2**

CSM Generali and I frequently discuss how lucky we are to have such outstanding Rear Detachment Leaders, FRG leaders, and key Spouses. These people are invaluable to this battalion. I could go on forever about all the great things they do for our soldiers and their families. Remarkable work. Please thank them for what they do. I appreciate the notes I have received from many of you regarding the great job they are doing. For you leaders reading this, and you know who you are—I am personally indebted to you. Thank you.

Our great “Soldiers of the Gauntlet” are contributing to the long legacy of this battalion. They all know their jobs very well and perform them superbly. I am absolutely honored to work along side them every day. Whether they are performing MP work, maintaining our equipment, keeping soldiers healthy, performing critical administrative duties, preparing and serving food, keeping our communication systems functioning, sustaining the mail flow, ensuring we’re safe from any chemical/biological threat, or “other duties as assigned” (we all get these), these great Americans have all had a positive impact on this battalion’s mission in this war. The 720<sup>th</sup> is the largest MP battalion in the Iraq War, and we also covered the most ground, and your soldiers made the difference. They’ve made history. You should be so proud!

### **411<sup>th</sup> from page 4**

Third Platoon “Rough Riders” is our general support platoon and they too have been successful in conducting convoy escorts and the screening of our new Tikrit police force. The police-screening mission is extremely vital because it allows us to turn over the security of Tikrit, Iraq back to the Iraqi people. Finally, our Second Platoon “Black Sheep” have done a phenomenal job in maintaining the security of the Tikrit Palace. Their efforts at the gates and the perimeters have attributed to a successful force protection plan for all the soldiers in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division that live and work in the Tikrit Palace Compound.

This unit would not be running on track if it were not for the efforts of our support personnel: Medics, Food Service Specialists, Mechanics, PAC Clerks, Arms Room, NBC, Operations and Supply. These support staff sections have put forth a strong effort and have done an absolutely outstanding job at keeping the 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company running on all cylinders.

In closing, I would like to ask that all of you continue to send your mail and packages to our soldiers; it is a super morale builder! Please keep us in your prayers and with the Lord’s help we shall all be home soon. SPEED AND POWER!

### **401<sup>st</sup> from page 5**

It means very much to the soldiers to receive these bits and pieces of home from you. It is the number one thing that keeps them going. As I’ve said before, it is you all they gain their strength from and it is you they are fighting for.

There is still no definitive word on when we will redeploy, yet. As soon as we know, we will expeditiously let you know. A deployment date or deployment window, as you know, will make a huge difference with both the soldiers here and you all at home. It will please me to no end to let the soldiers and you all know when we are finally returning home. Until then, the military police soldiers of the 401<sup>st</sup> will keep doing their job as professionally and proficiently as they always have been and will continue to set the standard for others to follow.

“Always First!”

### ***Combat Camera***

SSG Klaus Baesu and SGT Albert Eaddy, combat camera soldiers with the 55<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, have been attached to the 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion since May. They have taken many dynamic photos of Soldiers of the Gauntlet in action. Many of their photographs appear regularly on the websites [www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil), [www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil), [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) as well as on ARFN, CNN, FOX News and other media outlets. Active Duty soldiers can find all of their photographs on the following website; <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil>. Once you have registered on the website, you can search for photographs by photographers names (Baesu or Eaddy), or units (720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, 411<sup>th</sup> MP Company etc.).

## ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

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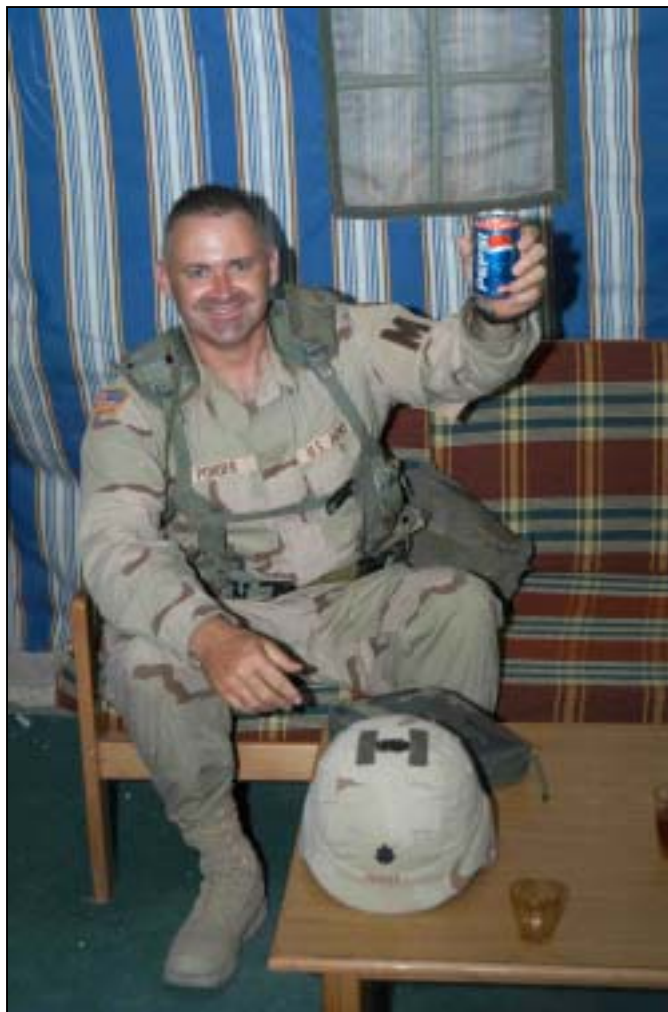
# *Little things that keep us going*



Mail from home...  
*PFC Burnette, 64<sup>th</sup> MP Co  
at Samarra East Airfield  
near Ad-Duluiyah.*



PlayStation...  
*SGT Vantilburg and 1LT  
Frazier, HHD 720<sup>th</sup> MP BN  
in Tikrit.*

*Little things*

Ice cold soda...  
*LTC Poirier in Al-Fallujah.*



Ice...  
*SGT DeFilipo in Ad-Duluiyah.*



*Little things*

Burritos - or anything to eat  
that is not an MRE...  
*64<sup>th</sup> MP Company soldiers  
at Samarra East Airfield.*



Junk food from the PX...  
*PFC Gossett, 401<sup>st</sup> MP Co, in  
Samarra.*

*Little things*

A good movie...  
411<sup>th</sup> MP  
Company soldiers  
in Tikrit.

A good book...  
SPC Jones, 64<sup>th</sup> MP  
Company, at Samarra  
East airfield.





# ***Soldiers of the Gauntlet***

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## *People of Iraq*

A tribal leader speaks to SGT Jason McGinn in Al-Fallujah in May. McGinn, a member of the 361<sup>st</sup> Psychological Operations Company, was attached to Task Force Guantlet.



A man and boy in Al-Fullujah watch as SSG Merzke and his squad pass in the street in front of them. Merzke and his soldiers had just confiscated an AK-47 and ammunition from a man near a weapons market.



*People of Iraq*



A girl in Samarra (above) was seen as SSG Jones (above right) questions a man in a market. SSG Jones' squad has discovered and confiscated weapons parts and ammunition in the man's roadside stand.



Children in Al-Fallujah.

*People of Iraq*



A man at a market (left),  
and a woman crossing a  
street (below) in Baghdad.





*People of Iraq*



Children in Ad-Duluiyah.

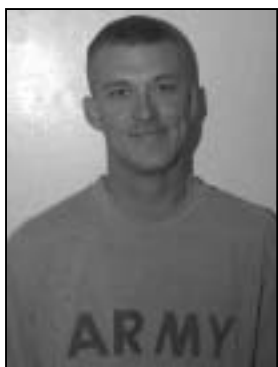


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## ***Soldiers' Voices***

### 411<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company

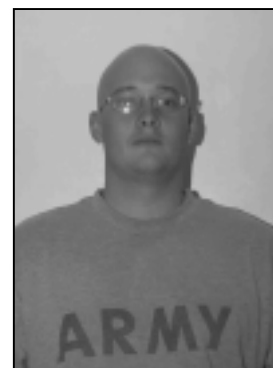


**SPC Nathan Deary** – to my family and friends

“I’m doing fine so don’t worry. Keep our soldiers in your prayers and pray for a safe return.”

**SPC Jason Geddis** – to Mikey and Holly

“Mikey – Daddy misses and loves you.  
Holly – I love you and I can’t wait to be  
back in your arms.”



**SGT Brandon Hoyle** – to my family

“I’m OK. I miss you all and love you all. To my daughter  
- I’m sorry I can’t be there as promised. Miss you the most, love you  
the most. To my friends – You are my family too...”

**PFC Jason Jump** – to Brittney

“I love you sweetie! I can’t wait to be home.  
I miss you so much!”



**SSG Michael Merzke** – to Alicia, Madison and Mikey

“I love you and I miss you. I can’t wait to get home to you.”



# Soldier's Voices



**SFC Kimberly McGhaney-Reed** – to Art, Daryl, Scotty, Grandma and family

“I love ya and I hope to see you soon! Miss ya and do write!”

**SGT PJ Thurman** – to Leslie

“I love you and miss you more than words could explain. Give Lane and Logan hugs and kisses from Daddy. I’ll be back as soon as I can.”



**PFC Jared Westcoat** – to my family and friends

“Thanks for all your prayers and support. We couldn’t do this without you. See you soon.”

**SGT Justin Boyce** – to

“I love you. I miss you. Tristan I love her and me.



Alyssa

I’ll be home soon. Tell giver her a big kiss for



**SPC Brad Christopher** – to Christina

“I love you and Hailey very much. I miss you extremely and I will continue to try and call.”



## Soldier's Voices

**SPC Andy Fifield** – to my family

“I miss you all more than I know how to express. I wish I could be with you, but I know I’m in your prayers. Erin, I love you and Melanie, Mom, Dad, Vicky and Russ – All my love. p.s. Go Spurs Go!”



**SSG Benjamin Nudo**  
and my boys Steven

– to my wife Unyong,  
and Daniel.

“I love you guys! Miss you so to get home! Steven and Daniel – Mommy crazy!”

much I can’t wait  
stop driving



**SPC Ben Sanchez** – to Lindsey

“Lindsey – I love you and I’m fine. Write more and I’m marrying you when I get home.”

**SPC Mark Vidal** – to Jen

“I love you Boo and I miss you like crazy. Give Ari a kiss for me and tell her the same. Mom and Pops – I’m alright so don’t worry ‘bout me and I love you all to. Tell my brothers the same. I’ll be home soon.”





# Soldier's Voices

## 64<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company

**SPC Felicitas Medina** – to Everardo, Evan and Eve in Kileen, Texas

“Loves – I miss you guys a whole bunch. Hope to see you three soon. Lots of love, Momma. Say hello to Grandma and Grandpa. p.s. Be good!”



**PFC Latasha Nevins** –

to Ashton and Shelby

“Mommy loves you and hopes to be home soon. Hugs and kisses!”



**SPC Heather Sheppard** – to Betty, Ash, Bub, Steph and Marty Phillips, JoAnne, Scotty, Ryan, Chasity, Rusty, Corbin, Emerson, Holly, Ryan, MecMee and Pop

“Jimmy and I love y’all so much and can’t wait until we get home. (I don’t know when that is.) We think about y’all every day. Send us pictures! PLEASE!! Thank you so much for your prayers. We love y’all lots – The Honeymooners. p.s. We’re going to Six Flags!”